



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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IN REPLY REFER TO

SECNAVINST 1301.6
N524C
22 November 1999

SECNAV INSTRUCTION 1301.6

From: Secretary of the Navy
To: All Ships and Stations

Subj: DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
OFFICER (IAO) PROGRAMS

Ref: (a) DoD Directive 1315.17 of 22 Feb 97 (NOTAL)
(b) OPNAVINST 1301.10 (NOTAL)
(c) MCO 1520.11D (NOTAL)

1. Purpose. Establish policy and assign responsibilities under reference (a) for the development of regional expertise encompassed within an International Affairs Officer (IAO) program, to include Foreign Affairs Officers (FAO) and Regional Affairs Officers (RAO)/Area Subspecialists, within the Department of the Navy (DON).

2. Background. References (b) and (c) provide Service specific guidance on the development of regional expertise.

3. Policy

a. Close and continuous military-diplomatic interaction with foreign government defense and military establishments is essential to develop and maintain the capability to engage in constructive, mutually supportive, bilateral and multilateral military activities and relationships across the range of operations.

b. The military-diplomatic offices at U.S. Embassies and diplomatic posts must be staffed with commissioned officers with a broad range of skills and experiences. The officers must also be versed in political-military affairs; familiar with the political, cultural, sociological, economic and geographic factors of the countries and regions in which they are stationed; and proficient in the predominant language(s) of the populations of their resident countries and regions. As well, the DON requires

officers with similar capabilities to serve in their organizations.

c. Officers who possess the experience and skills necessary for effective military diplomacy and for service on political-military staffs shall be selected by the Navy and Marine Corps and retained for such assignments.

d. The Navy and Marine Corps shall develop procedures to promote competitive career advancement for officers in each Service's IAO Program that best supports the requirement for qualified IAOs.

4. Responsibilities. The Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs shall have responsibility for the DON IAO Program.

a. Provide policy oversight of the DON IAO Program.

b. Sponsor mentoring of USN & USMC IAOs. It is envisioned that mentors will help develop regional expertise and identify key issues and items of interest for IAOs. Regional experts will be solicited for service as IAO mentors. Efforts will focus on the networking of both the people and the relevant information. "IAO Mentoring" should span Service boundaries.

5. Action

a. The Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps shall develop commissioned officer management programs, suitable to the specific needs of each Service, that develop, retain, and monitor officers possessing the following:

(1) Graduate-level education focusing on, but not limited to, the political, cultural, sociological, economic and geographic factors of specific foreign countries and regions, or duty experience in the foreign countries and regions in which they specialize.

(2) Foreign language skills in the predominant language used by the populations of the countries or regions in which they specialize, as necessary for future service requirements.

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(3) Qualification in their principal military specialties.

b. The Chief of Naval Operations and Commandant of the Marine Corps shall designate officer positions in each Service that require the qualifications listed in subsection 5a.

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